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THE MOURNING HUSBAND.

A DISCOURSE,

AT THE FUNERAL OF

MRS. THANKFUL CHURCH,

LATE CONSORT OF

THE REV. JOHN H. CHURCH,

PASTOR OF THE CHURCH IN PELHAM, N. H.

APRIL 15, 1806.

BY *LEONARD WOODS, A. M.*

PASTOR OF A CHURCH IN NEWBURY.

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APRIL, 1806.

DISCOURSE.

GEN. XXIII. 2.

AND SARAH DIED IN KIRJATH-ARBA;——AND ABRAHAM CAME TO MOURN FOR SARAH, AND TO WEEP FOR HER.

THE feelings of friendſhip are not weakened, but exalted and ſanctified by religion. Religion ſubdues every unkind affection, makes the heart ſincere and tender, and brings its happy ſubject into union with the God of love. And as religion renders men really benevolent; ſo it teaches them ſuitably to eſtimate every perſon, who diſcovers a benevolent heart. There are none who value a friend ſo highly, as the ſaints. There are none, who know ſo well the advantages, or ſo exquiſitely enjoy the delights of reciprocal affection. Accordingly, there are none, who feel ſuch tender and laſting grief, when a friend is taken away. Whether we look into the ſcriptures, or attend to the actual ſtate of the world, we find that the people of God are *the ſincereſt mourners*. The example of weeping for a deceaſed friend, which Jeſus hath ſet us, is too well known to need a particular recital, too impreſſive to be ever forgotten, and too perfect to admit of deſcription. Jeſus, weeping at the grave of Lazarus, ſanctioned all the

pious tears, by which his people, on similar occasions, express the tenderness and sorrow of their hearts.

But the text, pointed out by the occasion, calls our attention to a particular species of mourning; *the mourning of a bereaved husband for a discreet and pious wife.* The father of the faithful had lived happily with Sarah, his wife, for many years. When she died, he mourned and wept. The loss of such a valuable friend, such a dear companion, was very afflictive. He expressed his unfeigned sorrow, and paid her the last tribute of conjugal affection. How amiable did patriarchal virtue appear, in the melting tenderness of grief.

It is my design, in this discourse, *to justify the tears of Abraham at the grave of Sarah, or to show, with what singular propriety a husband mourns the death of a discreet and pious wife.*

All that can be said on the excellence and happiness of friendship in general, may, with eminent propriety, be applied to the friendship, which exists in the matrimonial state. It is there, that friendship is found in its highest purity and force; there it is productive of its best joys. How highly does the pen of inspiration honor marriage, by representing it, as resembling the sacred and holy union between Christ and his church. The married state is designed by God, as the consummation of human love. Kind heaven has wonderfully combined the interests and feelings, the joys and sorrows of the husband and the wife, so that they are one. If, therefore, bereavement in any other relation ought to be deeply felt; more so in this. If a man is justified, or excused for mourning the loss of any

other friend; his ſorrow for the death of a diſcreet and pious wife is commendable and dignified.

But in order to ſhow, with what ſingular propriety a huſband mourns the death of ſuch a partner, we muſt take a more particular ſurvey of her *amiable character, and her uſefulneſs.*

What encomium is too high for the character of a wife, uniformly good? How amiable in itſelf, and in all its fruits, is the ſincere and ardent love, which ſhe has for her huſband; love, which gives her a participation of all his joys, and all his ſorrows; which leads her cheerfully to accommodate herſelf to his views, condeſcendingly to comply with his requeſts, to ſubmit to his guidance, and to make it her favorite wiſh and her delightful employment, *to render him uſeful and happy.* What an ornament in the ſight of God and man, is *the meek and quiet ſpirit,* which ſhe exhibits. Her modeſt, gentle, and peaceable temper has a never fading beauty, a charm infinitely ſuperior to that of a fair countenance and ſplendid apparel. Above all, how ornamental is the ſpirit of piety, which raiſes her eyes and her heart to God; which conſecrates to him all her affections and all her actions; which prompts her diligently to perform every domeſtic duty, as unto God, and to ſeek purity of heart, as well as a blameleſs deportment. Religion imparts uniformity to her conduct, and the higheſt excellence to her character. Every perſon, acquainted with her, is conſtrained to acknowledge her worth. But no perſon ſo clearly diſcerns her amiable temper, or ſo highly eſteems her character, as her partner. He has the neareſt ſurvey of thoſe virtuous qualities, which adorn her mind. In her life the graces of chriſtianity flouriſh before his eyes. He prizes her above rubies. How grievous,

then, his bereavement, when ſhe departs. How affecting the moment, when ſo much lovelineſs expires. When her heart, ſo full of kind affection, ceaſes to beat, and her eyes, which beſpoke the ſenſibilities of her heart, are cloſed in death; how great muſt be his ſorrow. With what propriety does he weep at the grave of ſo much excellence.

But we muſt conſider not only the amiableneſs of her character, but *the uſefulneſs of her life. She will do him good, and not evil, all the days of his life.* She is very uſeful to her huſband, by the proper management of domeſtic concerns. *She looketh well to the ways of her houſehold, and guideth her affairs with diſcretion.* She does not ſhrink from ſuitable exertion. By her diligence, and by her conſtant care, *that nothing may be loſt,* ſhe ſecures an abundance of every thing deſirable. Yet her diligence and economy do not ſpring from covetouſneſs, but from chriſtian charity. The law of kindneſs is not only in her tongue, but in her heart. Beſides doing good to her own houſehold, *ſhe ſpreadeth out her hands to the poor; yea, ſhe reacheth forth her hands to the needy.* How ſenſibly muſt a huſband feel his loſs, when ſo much induſtry, prudence, and charity are taken from his houſe.

If they are bleſſed with children, how uſeful is ſhe in their education. She has a ſtock of tender affection, which never waſtes. It is her peculiar province, to watch over their infant years, to ſhield them from evil, to cheriſh them in her arms, to inſtill inſtruction into their opening minds, and, by her wiſdom and gentleneſs, to form their early habits. She is peculiarly qualified to teach their infant tongues to pronounce, with reverence, the great name of God, and to whiſper in their liſtening ears the ſentiments of faith and piety. How great her influence on the character of a

riſing family. How beneficial is ſhe to their temporal intereſt. And by her inſtruction, example, and prayers, how much may ſhe do for their religious intereſt, for their everlaſting good. How many of the moſt eminent ſaints gratefully recollect the faithful and devout attention of a mother, as the means of their converſion. Sincerely, indeed, muſt a father, who regards the welfare of his children, mourn the loſs of ſuch an aſſiſtant in their education, ſuch a guide of their blooming years.

A diſcreet and pious wife is to her huſband, *the beſt preſervative from the ſnares of the world.* He cannot go much abroad, and mingle freely with mankind, without danger. *Evil communications corrupt good manners.* The examples of the licentious world are alluring; its temptations ſeductive. Its pleaſures, though gratifying to the paſſions, debaſe the ſoul, and leave a ſting behind. From theſe dangers there is ſcarcely a better preſervative, than the attractions of an amiable partner. Through her influence, her huſband is contented at home. He finds his intereſt and happineſs lodged in his own houſe. There is his beſt friend. There congenial love yields its pureſt joys. Sick of the vanity, the inſincerity, and the treachery of the world, he gladly retreats to *one*, whoſe love is without diſſimulation; who prizes his comfort as her own; who can tenderly reprove, and as tenderly forgive his faults; who is never weary of his ſociety, and knows how to prevent her ſociety from being irkſome to him; to whom he can moſt freely reveal his heart, and in whom he can always ſafely truſt. In her converſation, in her delicate ſenſibility and unfailing affection, in her exemplary behavior, and fervent piety, he finds innocent endearments, pleaſures which never cloy. If duty calls him from home, he is wiſhfully expected by his faithful wife, and returns with

increaſed ſatisfaction. Every ſhort ſeparation is followed by a more cordial and more happy union. Connected with ſuch a partner, how diſtant does he keep himſelf from the dangerous ſnares of the world. How gladly does he forego its noiſy and polluting pleaſures.

In all *the perplexing and weariſome cares of life*, what a great bleſſing does he find in the affectionate companion of his retired hours. In every difficulty, how cheering is her kindneſs. When preſent, how does her converſation refreſh him. When abſent, how is he animated by the lively image of her virtue. Through her influence, he finds excitement and aid, forgets his hardſhips, and is cheerful in fatigue.

How does ſuch a partner add to his happineſs *in proſperity*. If he could enjoy the good things of this life alone, he has a far higher enjoyment of them in connexion with her. The happineſs, which he ſees her partake, gratifies his affection, and heightens his bliſs. Every providential favor has a double value, and every enjoyment a new reliſh, when ſhared by one ſo beloved.

Her influence is moſt ſenſibly felt *in times of affliction*. It is a bleſſing, which the benevolence of God has furniſhed, to alleviate the troubles of life. How many ſighs does ſhe prevent. How many corroding thoughts does ſhe chaſe from his mind. How does her cheerfulneſs diſſipate his gloom. How are his anxieties and pains relieved by her kind attentions. In ſickneſs, how healing is the power of her love, and her aſſiduity. How enlivening and conſoling in the hour of depreſſion. If he is ſoured, or grieved by the deceit, the ſelfiſhneſs, and the unkindneſs of men; her ſimplicity and tenderneſs reſtore him to

himſelf, and ſpread ſerenity and ſweetneſs over his mind. In the greateſt and moſt overwhelming troubles, her wiſdom, her pious calmneſs, and her ſympathy do much to compoſe his feelings, and to ſupport his ſinking ſpirits.

But her influence riſes ſtill higher. If he is impenitent, her pious conduct awakens his conſcience, and impreſſively recommends religion. If he is happily united with her in the love of God, ſhe greatly promotes his moral and religious improvement. Her moderation often tempers the exceſſive warmth of his paſſions. Her prudence reſtrains his impetuous temper, and ſo prevents many a raſh and hurtful ſtep. If at any time his anger is kindled, ſhe remains miſtreſs of herſelf, and endeavors, by the ſofteſt language, to reſtore his mind to peace. It is her earneſt deſire, that he may be led on to that perfection of moral virtue, to which ſhe herſelf aſpires. In religion, her converſation is inſtructive and quickening. Frequently it kindles anew the languiſhing flame of piety, and encourages him to attempt neglected duties. In her life he ſees a conſtant proof of the beauty and worth of religion. Her example, in which chriſtian grace is aſſociated with female ſweetneſs, ſoftens his temper, and attracts him to the throne of grace. Her uniform and conſcientious regard to the divine commands ſhows him, that duty is practicable, checks his backwardneſs, and fills him with penitence and zeal. How often does her piety and engagedneſs rouſe him from ſpiritual ſloth, and render him fervent in family and ſecret devotion. When ſhe deviates from duty, his heart is melted by the promptitude and tenderneſs of her confeſſion. While he is grieved with the imperfection of her virtue; he is at the ſame time charmed with the lovely ſincerity of her penitence. Her undiſſembled humility

often makes him aſhamed of his pride, and her meekneſs and contentment, of his paſſionate, or repining ſpirit. In ſhort, ſhe is a help to him through the whole chriſtian courſe. She ſmooths the ruggedneſs of the way, and ſhortens its tedious length. So far as divine grace enables her to diſplay the fruits of holineſs; ſo far ſhe contributes to his improvement and uſefulneſs in religion. And as he entertains the pleaſing hope, that Jeſus is her friend and heaven her final home; his affection to her, and his deſire of her company become motives to perſevering diligence in the work of God.

Her beneficial influence is felt by many others, beſide her own family. If her ſituation is ſuch, as to make her known to a large circle, her influence is proportionably increaſed. Here let me ſay, that few women have opportunity to be more extenſively uſeful, than the pious partner of a goſpel miniſter. She neceſſarily has free intercourſe with many families; and that intercourſe is attended with peculiar endearments. Her example is widely known, and much regarded. Her friendly diſpoſition is a rich bleſſing to all, who viſit her houſe. She is eſpecially uſeful to perſons of her own ſex. Other women in the married ſtate, obſerving her diligence, her economy, and her charity, are inclined to excel in the ſame virtues. By her example, they are excited to love their huſbands, to diſcharge, with unremitting care, every conjugal duty, and, above all other accompliſhments, to ſeek the precious *ornament of a meek and quiet ſpirit*. By her example, they are reminded of their obligations to their children, and impreſſed with the importance of *bringing them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord*. By her example, they are led to ſhun all ſlander and evil ſpeaking, to treat the reputation of others with friendly caution, and, as far as poſſible, to ſecure to every

one that *good name*, which is better than any earthly treaſure. She endeavors to baniſh from friendly ſociety every light and unprofitable topic, and to introduce and ſupport converſation, which is not only entertaining, but ſerious and edifying. She laments the leaſt appearance of looſeneſs and impiety in the riſing age, eſpecially among young women, does all in her power to render them modeſt in dreſs and behavior, and to allure them to the practice of chriſtian piety. Religion, in which they are inclined to think there is ſomething gloomy and forbidding, becomes attractive, when ſeen in her example. In ſhort, her life conſpires with the paſtoral labors and prayers of her huſband, to promote among the people a ſolemn attention to the Sabbath and all the means of grace, and the love of real goodneſs in its various forms. Her religion, uniformly regulated by prudence, and diſplayed in the amiable acts of domeſtic and ſocial duty, is to multitudes a matter of joy. Now if the influence of a diſcreet and pious wife is to her huſband, and to others, ſo highly uſeful; how much is loſt in her deceaſe. Both for his own ſake, and his people's, how deep ſhould be his ſorrow at her grave.

My reſpected hearers are all ready to believe, and ſome of them well know, that theſe obſervations are, in a good meaſure, applicable to this ſolemn occaſion. Our afflicted brother, while attending to the foregoing deſcription, has recognized the features of his beloved wife.* You, dear

* This remark is not made without ſtrict regard to the evidence which Mrs. Church exhibited of a diſcreet and pious character. As I have information on this ſubject, which is entitled to full confidence, I am happy in preſenting the following ſketch.

Under the benign influence of a religious education, Mrs. Church ſeriouſly attended to the goſpel from her youth. In 1798 ſhe made a profeſſion of religion, and was admitted a member of the church in Rutland. The doubts

Sir, having long known her worth, know beſt, what reaſon you have to mourn. The friendſhip between you and her, beginning in early life, *grew with your growth and ſtrengthened with your ſtrength.* At length your friendſhip was conſummated by the marriage bond. How amiable her conduct has been in that endearing relation, and how

and anxieties, with which her mind was afterwards exerciſed, led her to attend more particularly to the diſtinguiſhing nature of experimental religion; in conſequence of which ſhe obtained more ſatisfaction.

She firmly believed and humbly admired the peculiar doctrines of the goſpel; and by diligent hearing, reading, meditation, and prayer, made progreſs in divine knowledge. The proſperity of Zion was dear to her heart. She often expreſſed a deſire for a revival of religion, particularly among the people with whom ſhe was connected. She was grieved at the conduct of impenitent ſinners; while nothing was more pleaſing to her, than to ſee any hopeful attention to the things of religion. After ſhe entered into a family ſtate, the courſe of providence impreſſed her mind more and more with the importance of a holy life.

Her diligence in her domeſtic concerns was remarkable, eſpecially conſidering the uncommon delicacy of her conſtitution. Her peculiar kindneſs and attention to her huſband, during a late ſickneſs, joined with her concern and anxiety for him, and her unceaſing endeavors for the welfare of the family, exhauſted her ſtrength, and are thought to have been the probable occaſion of that illneſs, which iſſued in her death.

In her laſt ſickneſs, which commenced in Jan. 1806, ſhe commonly enjoyed compoſure of mind. The religious doubts, which ſometimes interrupted that compoſure, were generally ſucceeded by greater light and comfort. From time to time ſhe expreſſed her earneſt deſire to have clearer views of the glory of Chriſt. Apprehending her diſſolution to be near, ſhe, with much calmneſs, made known her wiſh reſpecting ſome articles of her clothing, and deſired that her huſband, at a ſuitable time, would make certain preſents to her little children, accompanied with pious counſel from her dying lips. Being aſked by him, whether ſhe felt willing to leave her children, ſhe anſwered; "I am. I have given them up to God. It has been my great deſire and concern, that they may be trained up in his fear. It has been my prayer ever ſince they were born, and before, that they may experience renewing grace; and I hope they will."

useful she has been to you in temporal and spiritual things, is all fresh in your remembrance. In your solitary reflections, you will often seem to enjoy again the years of your connubial state. Those years have been few, but crowned with peace and joy. She is now gone, never to return. God hath seen fit to take away the object of your youthful attachment, the desire of your eyes, the chosen companion of your life. She, who was so discreet and virtuous a wife, such a support in affliction, a soother of your anxieties, a refreshment to your heart in all your labor and fatigue, and the crown of your earthly happiness, now sleeps in death. Your most serious anticipations

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After this she was divinely comforted from day to day, regarding Christ as *her Savior* and *her all.* A little while before she expired, feeling herself to be dying, she looked round on her family, and said; "I thank you all, my friends, for your kindness to me.—I wish we may all meet in heaven." She manifested humble confidence in God, and very devoutly prayed to the Lord Jesus, *to strengthen her with strength in her soul, and to come and receive her spirit.* Seeing her husband's tears, she said, "God will support you." She then took her ring from her finger, and put it on his, with these words; "Our friendship on earth is soon to end. But I hope we shall meet in heaven, and enjoy purer friendship."

To both her children she was enabled to utter the melting tenderness of a dying mother's heart. Taking the hand of her infant son, who had been her hope and delight, she said; "Dear little child! dear little child! motherless child! God be merciful to you, my dear child. I give you up to him. May you be to the praise and glory of his grace. Lord, he is thine;"—subjoining fervent prayer for the child.

To her aged parents, and her sister, she addressed herself in a very becoming and impressive manner, and took, of all her surrounding friends, a most affectionate farewell.

After that her consolation increased, and her prospect brightened. Just before she died, appearing exceedingly serene and happy, she said, *that her views were more clear and lively than they had been, and that God seemed to be gradually shining into her soul.* She finally closed her eyes with her own hand, and, with happy quiet in body and mind, expired.

"*Blessed are the dead, who die in the Lord.*"

could never realize to you this ſorrowful ſcene. Dear brother, God calls you to mourn. Your loſs is great, and juſtifies very tender and durable grief. We offer you our ſincere condolence; and we will not forbear ſaying, *you need the help of God.* Without his grace we can neither act, nor ſuffer according to his will. May he enable you to mourn in a becoming manner, and to glorify him in the furnace of affliction.

In order that your grief may not be irregular, or hurtful, you muſt be careful to mingle with it thoſe joys, which religion furniſhes, and which are inſeparable from chriſtian mourning. Yes, my brother, while you weep to behold the pale face of death, and yonder grave, which opens to receive your lovely partner; your tears may brighten with joy. Though ſhe is dead,—the friend of your boſom, the mother of your tender offspring deceaſed; yet your God, and their God liveth. He is infinitely better, than the moſt amiable wife and the moſt affectionate mother. May he ſpare to you the dear children, be their father, and make them heirs of his grace. Though you can behold the face of your partner no more; you may, with diviner joy, behold the glory of the Redeemer, who is infinitely more comely, than the ſons or the daughters of men. Though you can no more enjoy her company and friendſhip; you may enjoy the preſence and friendſhip of her Savior. Happy will it be, if he renders this painful bereavement the means of bringing you to a more conſtant and bliſsful enjoyment of himſelf. In all your lonely hours, may he be your companion and friend. May the light of his countenance cheer the dark vale of ſorrow. May the arm of his mercy bear you up. When you look upon your little children; when you think of their loſs, as well as your own, and your heart is ready to ſink; then

may he ſhed down upon you abundantly the conſolations of his Spirit.

Though ſhe is ſo ſoon taken from you ; yet ſhe tarried long enough to receive and to communicate much good. Gratefully recollect all the advantages and bleſſings, which you received from her. With equal gratitude recollect the benefits, which you had opportunity to confer upon her. It muſt be one of your beſt comforts, that you have reaſon to think yourſelf an inſtrument of good to her immortal ſoul. For this give cordial praiſe to the God of all grace. This leads to another conſoling thought.

Though her body is encloſed in the gloomy coffin, and though, to an eye of ſenſe, all her excellence is now to be buried in the duſt ; yet humble faith ſees, that *ſhe ſtill lives, lives in the moſt exalted ſenſe.* If, as we truſt, chriſtian holineſs adorned her character ; that holineſs is now perfected in the kingdom of God. Her Redeemer has come, according to her dying prayer, *and received her ſpirit.* She is now *with him, where he is, beholding his glory*, and enjoying the ineffable bliſs of his friendſhip. None of her virtues have periſhed. The ſpark of holy love, which was here kindled in her ſoul, has now riſen to a pure and heavenly flame. She ſerves her God with far greater zeal and conſtancy, and praiſes him in ſtrains far more ſublime, than is conſiſtent with a ſtate of imperfection. Her death is your loſs ; but, we believe, her gain. Her uſefulneſs is, in no degree, loſt to the kingdom of God. The bleſſed have, we truſt, already welcomed her, as an addition to their number, and their joy. Nor is ſhe wholly loſt to *you.* The remembrance of her virtues ought to excite your gratitude, and your imitation. The remembrance of her death will conſtantly exerciſe your ſubmiſſion to the

will of God. And henceforth the thought of her will be aſſociated with *eternity*, and ſo tend to raiſe your ſpirit and produce a heavenly frame.

The time of your parting came, indeed, very early. But, my brother, you have reaſon to thank God, that you enjoyed her company ſo long, that you had ſo happy a parting, and that you have ſuch a proſpect of a happy meeting beyond the grave. Bleſſed be God for the hope, that, after a ſhort ſeparation, you will be reunited to each other in a better world, where virtuous friendſhip will bloom in unfading beauty, and where benevolent ſouls will be each other's joy forever. If ſuch conſiderations are duly felt, and ſuch comforts mingled with your mournful reflections; your ſorrow will not be exceſſive or hurtful.

It will not be ſo, dear brother, if you mourn, *without repining*. Let not your grief, however ſincere and tender, be attended with a ſingle murmuring thought; no, not with the leaſt emotion of uneaſineſs reſpecting God's ways. He gave, and he hath taken away. He hath done what pleaſed him. God is love. We wiſh you the great and rare bleſſing of a truly ſubmiſſive heart. Let this bereavement, inſtead of interrupting your religion, prompt you to duty. Give your people reaſon to bleſs God for the calmneſs and piety of your grief. Let them ſee the good effect of your afflictions, in your increaſed diligence and ſatisfaction in the work of the miniſtry. Let them ſee that, ſo far from ſinking under the loſs of your partner, you are ſtimulated to travel, with new zeal, towards that world, whither ſhe is gone before you.

Her aged parents are entitled to our moſt ſympathetic regards. They ought to be thankful, that they have been bleſſed with a daughter ſo amiable, and ſo uſeful. The

Lord give them conſolation. May he never leave them, never, never forſake them. May he be their ſupport and joy in life ; and when heart and ſtrength fail, may he be the ſtrength of their heart, and their portion forever.

To thoſe, who mourn the loſs of a ſiſter, we devoutly wiſh this favor, that their life may be as virtuous, and their death as peaceful, as hers.

My brethren and friends of this ſociety, your beloved paſtor has a grateful ſenſe of your kind attention to him, and to his departed wife in the time of affliction. It has been a great ſupport to his mind. We hope you will kindly remember him in his ſolitary ſtate, and endeavor, by every token of ſincere and generous friendſhip, to alleviate his ſorrow. And let me beg for him one more favor ; a favor, which I am ſure, it is reaſonable to aſk, and which he would eſtimate above every other favor. *Give him the joy of your repentance.* Let the goſpel, preached by him, have free courſe and be glorified among you. Let his labors and prayers for your good be ſucceſsful. Attend to this warning of providence ; hear the voice of God. Devote yourſelves to his ſervice, walk in love, and prepare to die. Thus let your benevolent paſtor have you for the ſeals of his miniſtry, and his crown of rejoicing in the day of the Lord Jeſus.

Beloved hearers, permit me to aſk, why you are aſſembled together on this occaſion ? Is it to ſpend an hour in ſolemn gaze, and perhaps ſhed a few tears of condolence, and then to plunge again, without thought, in worldly buſineſs or pleaſure ? What a profanation would this be ! What a mockery of divine providence ! If you would derive advan-

tage from this mourning ſcene, receive the leſſons of divine wiſdom. Behold this coffin, which encloſes, in its dark cell, a perſon ſo dear and ſo uſeful. Learn life's uncertainty, and the world's emptineſs. Prepare for the houſe which is appointed for all the living; and prize the goſpel, which brings life and immortality to light. Let huſbands duly regard the treaſure, which God has given them in amiable partners, and treat them in that affectionate and honorable manner, which the word of God enjoins. Let wives remember, that nothing but true diſcretion and piety can render them beloved in life, lamented in death, and happy forever. Parents, your opportunity to do good to your dear children, is ſhort. Therefore be diligent, and abound in prayer. My youthful hearers you weep for one, who was concerned for your virtue, and earneſtly deſired your ſalvation. Conſider that your glowing affections, your ſprightly airs, and pleaſing proſpects cannot ſhield you from death. There is no diſcharge in that war. Therefore remember your Creator and Redeemer in the days of your youth. Let all unite to mourn, after a godly ſort, the deceaſe of ſo valuable a character. Follow her as far, as ſhe followed Chriſt. Copy her diſcreet and pious life, that you may imitate her ſerene and happy death.